

May 22, 2017

TO: Members of  
House Energy and Environment Committee

Re. SB990 and E and E Committee Hearing, May 25, 2017

Please make my statement below part of the Hearing record on SB990.

Inga Fisher Williams,  
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I am writing to oppose passage of SB990 as it is contrary to the moratorium in Oregon on nuclear power plants construction. This bill is nothing short of an end run around *O.R.S. § 469.595* and its conditions re nuclear waste, including the provision to seek voter approval for the construction of nuclear power plants in the State.

There is no justification for the legislature to counter the decision to have a moratorium on nuclear power plant construction until the nuclear waste storage / disposal has been settled. Whether full size or smaller, modular, all nuclear power plants have the same issue: toxic, radioactive waste that must be sequestered and safely stored for hundreds or even thousands of years, depending on the decay years of the radioactivity emitted by the spent fuel rods.

In fact there is every reason NOT to allow modular nuclear plants. Given the de facto “solution” to store spent fuel rods on-site, this bill would create small radioactive waste storage ponds directly related to the proliferation of small scale nuclear power plants would therefore disperse radioactive waste rods into multiple locations instead of the concentrated Trojan-like spent fuel pond.

The recent Hanford incident where a tunnel storing waste from the nuclear weapons manufacture caved, was filled with many truckloads of soil and is proposed to be capped with a plastic cap illustrates the folly of creating even more toxic, radioactive waste.

Calling nuclear power “carbon-free”, the industry has found a new wrapper for its ill-conceived atomic power generating plan. This at a time when solar and wind power acceptance and application are growing, clean power is becoming less expensive and has a superior job - generating effect. We’ve come a long way from “too cheap to meter” and “come play in our nuclear park” to be taken in by the nuclear industry’s sloganeering.

The legislature must oppose the dispersal of toxic, radioactive waste which would inescapably follow approval SB990.

